

New Books.

The Botanic Garden; or, Magazine of Hardy Flowering Plants: to which is added, *The Fruiter; a Description of the best Apples, Pears, and other Fruits, their Qualities, Habits, and Culture.* By B. MAUND, F.L.S. Small 4to, and 12mo. January, 1845.

This work has enjoyed an uninterrupted career of twenty years, and is thoroughly established in public favour. Such a result is well merited, for the editor has evinced his sense of the support he has received by so many successive additions to the original plan, without in any instance increasing the price, that we have long regarded it as the most simple, elegant, and cheapest horticultural periodical in the kingdom. But, as if to outdo his former self, Mr. Maund seems to think that having borne flowers of all hue, it is time his work should bear fruits; accordingly, he has now added "The Fruiter." This is a most valuable addition, and we must recommend it to every one who has a garden, from the peer to the peasant. Indeed, it is in regard to the advantage of the cottager that we are chiefly induced to notice it here. The instructions for the culture of the fine varieties of fruit-trees figured in it are mainly adapted for dwarf-trees, so that there is scarcely a labourer's garden so small as not easily to admit three or four of these, which he can cultivate at his leisure, and find his recompense in the ornamental blossoms they will put forth in spring, and the substantial and savoury fruit they will yield in autumn.

We deem it one of the most gratifying signs of the times that the well-being and comfort of the labourer now occupies the thoughts and attention alike of the legislator and the philanthropist; that efforts are every where making to implant in his heart the feeling, too long banished from it, that he is not an intruder here, but a valuable, essential, and integral part of the body politic. Few things will conduce more to effect this blessed change than giving him a garden with a few fruit-trees, which may be at once his pride and his profit. How truly does Mary Howitt, who knows the depths and has taken the soundings of the poor man's heart, sing, "like an angel in the clouds," of the Poor Man's Garden:—

"But be, the poor man, sees his crops,
And a thankful man is he,
For he thanks all through the winter
How rich his board will be!
The rich man has his wall-fruits,
And his delicious vines;
The fruit for every season,
His melons and his pines.
The poor man has his gooseberries,
His currants white and red;
His apple and his damson-tree,
And a little strawberry-bed.
A happy man he thinks himself,
A man that's passing well—
To have some fruit for the children,
And some besides to sell."

All success, therefore, to the "Botanic Garden" and "The Fruiter."

Correspondence.

ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN.

SIR,—As you have on many occasions afforded space in your widely-circulating journal for the purpose of disseminating the rules and principles which govern the Association of Architectural Draughtsmen, I beg, with your kind permission, again to call the attention of the profession generally, and more especially of your correspondent of January 11, to the address and real objects of the society, premising, for the information of those who possess copies of the laws of the association at first issued, that during its operation, now two years and a half, it has been found expedient to materially remodel the rules which first governed it.

The meetings of the association take place on the first and third Wednesdays in every month, and are held at 33, Southampton-street, Strand.

A leading object in its formation, that of securing to unemployed members and invalids a weekly stipend, was that which received on the part of the committee of management the most serious consideration; it also at-

tracted considerable attention out of the society, and many objections having arisen against it, it was found eventually expedient to make it a mere voluntary "benevolent fund," in which members might or might not subscribe, as their means or inclinations prompted. This accumulating fund tells its own purpose, and in proportion to its amount, so will be its utility if discriminately laid out.

The next subject of importance, that of providing employers with assistants and "unemployed members" with situations, has been found fully to answer every expectation of its promoters, many members having secured eligible situations through its influence, and formed connections with architects which are likely to be of material and permanent benefit to them.

Among the new rules an exemption is provided in favour of members in practice for themselves in regard to the quarterly contribution drawings, architectural prints being made admissible instead; the fines also against members generally for the non-production of the said drawings are limited to 5s., which those who have occasion from press of business or other circumstances, can avail themselves of; and, further, with regard to these "quarterly drawings," members are allowed to withdraw their first when they contribute their ninth, and so on in rotation, leaving at all times eight in the folios of the society; this rule has given great satisfaction to every one. Apart from the general management of the society, a number of the members have formed a "book club," which is conducted in the usual manner, an architectural work being selected, the members ballot for the reading and the choice of purchasing the work at half its original cost. Having now stated the leading objects of the society, allow me to press upon such of your readers as belong to the architectural profession the importance of supporting by their fellowship, activity, and talent, this most useful and laudable society. It requires co-operation in all its branches; additional members to secure on every meeting night a full and attentive audience to its various papers and topics of discussion; numbers to co-operate in the purchase of more valuable works, and to swell the already valuable collection of drawings, that examples may be amassed of every class of executed works, practical and ornamental, classic and Gothic, from the earliest ages to our own day—and last, though not least, as usual, we want numbers to augment the funds, that its operations may be carried on with spirit, and that we may engage permanent premises suitable for the collecting of casts, models, books, drawings, and engravings, and annually to form a public exhibition of purely architectural subjects apart from the glitter and gorgeous frames that surround the few annually hung at the Royal Academy.

Allow me, in conclusion, to apologize to you for the length of this communication, and to remain, SIR, your constant reader,

A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN.

London, Feb. 6th, 1845.

COMPETITION FOR LAYING OUT GROUND, KING'S-ROAD, READING.

SIR,—Having submitted a design for laying out for building purposes, ground situated in the King's-road, Reading, I can bear testimony to the correct statement, dated 5th Feb., and signed "Fairplay," which appeared in the last week's number of your highly useful journal. I paid two visits to Reading, the first to examine the site, and the second to attend at Mr. Blandy's office, for the purpose of giving my opinion in writing upon the merits of the two designs which in my judgment should appear most worthy of the premiums offered. This was by no means so difficult a task as might have been expected, for although forty-seven designs had been submitted, I found, upon examination, not more than half that number to be finished and completed in accordance with the instructions issued. Some of the designs exhibited were so largely at variance with the rules laid down, that I felt surprised they had not been at once rejected. It would, therefore, be a satisfaction to learn that the successful designs are in rule and order; and perhaps Mr. Blandy, through the medium of your widely-circulated journal, may

be induced to communicate that fact for the gratification of those gentlemen who have by their exertions afforded him so much professional information. I am, SIR, &c., London, Feb. 18th, 1845. V. K. T. S.

CORRESPONDENCE ON NEW METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS ACT.

JURISDICTION OF OFFICIAL REFEREES.

SIR,—In consequence of my letter upon this subject, which appeared in your journal of the 4th instant, I was applied to on the following Monday to attend before the official referees on the succeeding Thursday, to argue a case for a party who had received a summons then to attend, upon the information of a district surveyor, for alleged irregularities under the "New Metropolitan Buildings Act," which was an opportunity I gladly availed myself of, as some nice points were involved in the peculiarities of the case, that may, in the present state of excitement upon the question, be interesting to your readers. I of course shall carefully avoid remarking on what occurred at the conference, confining myself to statements that came to my knowledge as instructions, but I will not omit the opportunity thus afforded of stating the great courtesy with which we were received, and the evident desire to elicit the truth. From the course of proceeding adopted, I feel satisfied that substantial justice will be done through the medium of the equitable powers intrusted to the referees for all matters in difference arising after the 1st January last, thus avoiding the ruinous litigation that has arisen heretofore upon the construction of various clauses of the old Act.

My ground of complaint is, that they have assumed an authority for works "commenced" previous to 1st January, which, being upon construction of terms in a penal act, are open to be discussed in a court of law, upon the ground of maintaining civil rights, which every citizen is entitled to do, unless controlled by such an equitable jurisdiction as is evidently given to the referees after the 1st January.

If this view be correct, and a doubt exists as to the construction to be put upon terms or words, it appears the rational course would be for the referees at their own cost, upon a case put, to seek the best legal advice, and not by summons to individual parties, put them to considerable expense to argue points that must all tend pretty much to the same result.

Under my advice, we appeared by protest. After this long exordium, we will now to the facts, which, if contrived for the purpose, could not more completely have met two important points for the object of raising the question, viz. the "bona fides" of the matter, and the intended buildings projecting beyond the line of other houses. I will confine myself in this letter to the "bona fides" as, if that is established, the other point falls to the ground. A party having determined some years since to erect five fourth-rate houses within the operation of the old Act (but prevented by circumstances over which he had no control), gave due notice to the district surveyor of his intention on the 27th December (the case is surrounded with much matter distinctly proving "bona fides" within the knowledge of the district surveyor, who had been in correspondence upon the subject, and assented in writing nearly two months previous that such a proceeding would be in accordance with the Act). I prefer assuming he had not heard of the intention until the 27th December, as more completely raising the argument upon other cases so circumstanced.

The party, between the time of notice and 1st January, proceeded with the work as rapidly as possible, having put in the footings of the whole length of the front wall and of one end wall, and indicated by projections the party-walls of the five houses, with some few corners of the walls in addition to the footings. The work was steadily proceeded with until 14th January, when the builder received a notice to suspend operations. The opinion of the referees, as addressed to Mr. Allen, notified in your journal 25th January, must now be taken as their dictum, as in this case the district surveyor found his complaint to

* This word appears to be an apocryphal illustration of the word "commencement." I contented for using it in its largest sense, and refuse to be limited as meaning a citizen of London.

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